

**Charminster Parish Council meeting Tuesday 4th October 2022
at Charlton Down Village Hall at 7pm**

Draft Minutes

Present: Mark Simons (MS) (Chair), (Vice-Chair), Keith Beeson (KB), Peter Dangerfield (PD), Richard East (RE), Susan Frazer (SF), Oliver Greenaway (OG), Julie Jackson (JJ), Louisa Swabey-Payne (LP), Alan Rolls (AR), Richard Wareham (RW), Tim Yarker (TY)

Also in attendance: Sarah Davies (Clerk) and 5 members of the public

MS welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7pm. A minute's silence was held as this was the first time the Parish Council had met since the death of Queen Elizabeth.

2022/222 **Declarations of Interest** – to record declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.
None

2022/223 **To consider grant of dispensations**
None received.

2022/224 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies had been received from Geri Brown, Carol Matthews and Cllr David Taylor

2022/225 **To approve the minutes** of the meetings held on 6th September 2022
RW proposed the minutes be approved. AR seconded. Majority in favour. MS signed and dated the minutes.

2022/226 **Matters arising from the above minutes**
The Clerk provided an update on the school bus issues. Dorset Council officers have ridden on the X11 in the morning and afternoon and the bus has not been over capacity.

2022/227 **Public Discussion Period**
MS suspended the formal part of the meeting at 19.07.
A resident asked about progress with the screening for Broken Cross play area. The Clerk confirmed she has the screening and once the works being carried out by SSE are complete, she will arrange for the netting to be installed.
MS resumed the formal part of the meeting at 19.08

2022/228 **Planning Matters**
P/PAAC/2022/05705 – Roman Road Farm, Old Sherborne Road
Change of use and conversion of agricultural buildings to 3 no. dwellings
RE proposed the Parish Council raises no objection to the application. TY seconded. Majority in favour.

P/HOU/2022/05413 – Hill Barn Farm, Wolfeton Eweleaze Road, Charminster
RE proposed the Parish Council raises no objection to the application. KB seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/229 **Finance**

- a) Financial Statement
MS checked the bank statements against the financial statement.
- b) Payments to be agreed
KB proposed accepting the financial statement and all payments. RW seconded. Majority in favour.
- c) Conclusion of external Audit
Members noted the external auditor's report and conclusion of audit.
- d) F&P meeting in November
RW proposed the F&GP committee meeting before the end of November. LP seconded. All in favour.

2022/230 **North Street Play Area roundabout**

Prior to the meeting, members had received a confidential report from the Clerk on the incident at the playground. Members discussed the report and considered the different options open to them. It was agreed that both the removal of the roundabout or the reinstallation of it would be extremely costly due to its size and weight. The 2021 independent annual safety inspection and the weekly inspections prior to the incident show that the gap between the underside of the roundabout and the safety surface was between the recommended 60mm and 110mm. But during the process of freeing the trapped child, the roundabout has been levered up and now the gap does not meet the required recommendations. If the roundabout was to be reinstalled it would need to have other modifications made to it to meet current safety guidelines (which would become applicable due to its reinstallation being treated as a new installation by safety inspectors) and these are probably not possible. TY proposed and RE seconded that the council should reluctantly seek to have the roundabout removed. Majority in favour.

2022/231 **Traffic Consultation**

MS explained that the traffic working party had met with New Master Planning about creating a traffic movement strategy for the Parish to try to alleviate the many problems with traffic in all parts of the Parish. New Master Planning had submitted a proposal that included working with a specialist street designer and highway expert. The proposal was broken into separate phases and the total expenditure would be approximately £22,000 if all stages are completed (but there is no obligation to do so). TY proposed accepting the proposal. KB seconded. Majority in favour. 1 abstention and 1 against.

2022/232 **New phone for the Assistant Clerk**

OG proposed spending up to £28 per month for an iPhone 11 or XR (due to the necessity of a large screen). This would include data and call charges. JJ seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/233 **Community Assistance during Winter 2022**

It was agreed the clerk and assistant clerk will work with Nigel Kaye (Village Hall chairperson) and Vicky Lawford (Church Family worker) as well as partner organisations to collate a proposal for winter assistance. It was agreed that a series of one off events and/or weekly events that also provide a social element to them would work well.

2022/234 Replacement bench for Mill Lane

RE proposed spending up to £500 for a new bench that will be installed on the existing gravel base. SF seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/235 Maple Drive hedge

The Clerk had not been sent the quotes she had requested so this item will be added to the November agenda.

2022/236 Community Hall

a) Uplighters for use in hall

PD proposed spending up to £100 for 4 uplighters for the hall for use by hirers for evening exercise classes (as the main lights cannot be dimmed). SF seconded. Majority in favour.

b) Motion sensor outside light

It was suggested that a motion sensor light may be irritating for nearby residents as it can be set off by animals etc. The Clerk will look into getting a push button timer light that could be used when opening and closing in the dark.

2022/237 Community Flag Pole

OG proposed members agree in principle to purchasing and installing a community flag pole at the community hall. TY seconded. Majority in favour. 2 abstentions.

2022/238 Charminster Farm Allotments

Members considered the final documents. The Charminster Farm Allotment Association had requested that the following be included in the allotment rules: "other increases would be as required by CFAA and therefore an internal matter arising from a Committee meeting/AGM". Members were concerned that this could result in a future committee increasing the fees so much that they become unaffordable to some residents.

KB proposed this addition should not be included and instead the following be stated "Any increases need to be agreed in advance by CPC with permission not unreasonably withheld". SF seconded. Majority in favour.

2022/239 Matters of information and items for the next agenda

PD reported that Mill Lane would be closed on 12 and 13 November to enable SSE to carry out work. This was to investigate running a high voltage electric cable from the sub-station in Wanchard lane to an area North of Dorchester, possibly Puddletown.

The Clerk will contact Dorset Highways about the weeds from the shop down to the village hall in Charlton Down.

The Clerk has received several complaints about the orange signs on the railings near the gym in Charlton Down. Planning has stated they are outside of the permitted development but would only take action if the signs are intended to be there long term rather than just for opening. Item for November agenda.

KB requested Princes Plot Management Plan be added to the November agenda.

2022/240 Date of the next meeting

1st November at Charminster Community Hall.

There being no further business MS closed the meeting at 8.34pm